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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I (Figure 8), which is readable on claims 1-3, 12-13 in the reply filed on 3/28/2008 is acknowledged.

2. Claims 4-11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 3/28/2008.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 12 filed on 9/30/2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that Figure 1 of Takemura cannot anticipate claim 1 since Takemura does not disclose "the pressure member is disposed between the camera casing and the lens-barrel."

In response, regarding claim 1, the Applicant amended claim with newly added limitation "the pressure member disposed between the camera casing and the lens-barrel." The Examiner agrees that Figure 1 of Takemura does not disclose this feature. However, Figure 7, a third embodiment, of Takemura et al. does disclose the newly added limitation "the pressure member disposed between the camera casing and the lens-barrel" as discussed below.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takemura et al. (US 6,507,700).

Regarding claim 1, Takemura et al. (Figure 7) discloses an imaging apparatus comprising:

a camera casing having an opening (camera case 5 which comprises front case 5a, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23);

a lens set (lenses 1, 2, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23) housed in a lens-barrel (lens barrel 4, figures 1-2, column 6, lines 1-23) ; and

a pressure member (boss 11, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23) in a cylindrical shape having an opening defined by an annular pressure portion, the pressure member disposed between the camera casing and the lens-barrel (Figure 7 shows that the boss 11 is disposed between camera case 5, 5a and lens barrel 4);

wherein said opening of said pressure member is caulked with a first lens of said lens set by fixing said pressure member to an outer circumferential portion of said lens-barrel (figure 7 shows that the boss 11 is fixed to outer circumferential of lens barrel 4, and noted that since

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camera 5 is a waterproof camera, the front case 5a must be caulked with front lens 1, column 6, lines 25-36) and

said opening of said camera casing is caulked by fixedly housing said fixed pressure member in said camera casing in which a front end portion of said fixed pressure member projects outside from said opening of said camera casing (figure 7, since camera 5 is a waterproof camera, the front case 5a must be caulked with front lens 1, column 6, lines 25-36).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura et al. (US 6,507,700) in view of Arai (US 5,550,612).

Regarding claims 12, Takemura et al. (Figure 7) discloses an imaging apparatus comprising:

a camera casing having an opening (camera case 5, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23);  
a lens assembly (lenses 1, 2, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23) including a lens-barrel (lens barrel 4, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23) for housing a lens set positioned relatively to each other, a pressure member (boss 11, figure 7, column 6, lines 1-23) in a cylindrical shape surrounding an outer circumference of said lens-barrel, and an opening defined by said pressure member, the

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pressure member disposed between the camera casing and the lens-barrel (Figure 7 shows that the boss 11 is disposed between camera case 5, 5a and lens barrel 4),

wherein said opening of said pressure member is caulked with a first lens of said lens set (figure 7 shows that the boss 11 is fixed to outer circumferential of lens barrel 4, and noted that since camera 5 is a waterproof camera, the front case 5a must be caulked with front lens 1, column 6, lines 25-36).

Takemura et al. fails to specifically disclose wherein said opening of said pressure member is caulked with a first lens of said lens set by fixedly screwing said pressure member down to an outer circumferential portion of said lens-barrel, and said opening of said camera casing is caulked by fixedly housing said pressure member screwed down fixedly in said camera casing in which a front end portion of said pressure member screwed down fixedly projects outside from said opening of said camera casing. However, Arai discloses a camera in which lens barrel 8 is screwed into thread portion of camera body 10 (figure 1, column 5, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the camera in Takemura et al. by the teaching of Arai in order to mount a lens barrel to camera casing, which has the benefit that a user easily replace lens barrel by screwing the lens barrel out of the thread portion of camera casing.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 2-3, 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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***Conclusion***

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
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